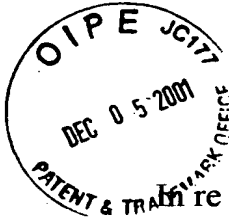


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Docket No. 4742



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the patent application of Ford et al.

Serial No. 09/493652

Filing date: January 28, 2000

Title: Mail Location Apparatus

Group Art Unit 3722 -- Examiner Mackey

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend this application by substituting the enclosed amended pages of the application for the corresponding pages currently on file.

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REMARKS

This is a reply to the office action of June 5, 2001.

The examiner rejected claims 1 - 11 as anticipated by Salomon, Patent No. 5640903.

The rejection is respectfully traversed. Anticipation requires that every element of a claim be met. In the present case, claim 1 requires, among other things, a sensor means having a face for engaging a corner of a mail item, and more particularly that the face be inclined to the first and second mutually perpendicular directions. The sensor structure of Figure 5 in Salomon, as identified by the examiner, manifestly does not disclose a sensor having a face which is inclined to the mutually perpendicular directions.

We respectfully request that the examiner reconsider the rejection of the claims over Salomon.

Charles W. Fallow

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December 5, 2001